Circular Letter No.3537  
18 March 2015

To: All IMO Member States and Associate Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: Study on the implementation of the ballast water performance standard described in regulation D-2 of the BWM Convention

1. At the request of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), the IMO Secretariat has initiated a study on the implementation of the ballast water performance standard described in regulation D-2 of the BWM Convention, in partnership with the World Maritime University (WMU). This study will assess the implementation of the Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8) and related type approval processes, as well as the performance of ballast water management systems (BWMS) with type approval certification in operation on board ships.

2. The study is fact-based and will focus on collecting, synthesizing and analysing data and verifiable information and documentation. It involves two "tracks" to facilitate and optimize the collection of data:

   .1 similarities/differences in testing and certification; and
   .2 BWMS operational performance.

3. Online surveys are being employed as endorsed by MEPC 67 and distinct questionnaires have been designed for individual stakeholder groups, organized under the two tracks, which can be accessed at https://sites.google.com/a/wmu.se/d2study/. The survey will remain open until 1 June 2015 and Member Governments and international organizations are kindly invited to contribute to the study, and thus to the work of the Committee, by completing the questionnaires at their earliest convenience. All proprietary and/or classified information collected for this study will remain confidential and the data provided in the final report will not be attributed to any specific individual, organization, BWMS or ship. Additional details are provided on the above website and the email address d2study@wmu.se has also been created specifically for the execution of the study.